

years of service, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.●

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, on the vote to confirm Marcela Escobari, I wish to be recorded as a no vote. Had there been a rollcall vote, I would have voted no.

Mr. President, on the vote to confirm Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, I wish to be recorded as voting no vote. Had there been a rollcall vote, I would have voted no.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I had the privilege to deliver the commencement address for Michigan State University fall graduates. Speaking with and recognizing the next generation of leaders in Michigan and the country was an incredible honor. While I was unable to attend today's vote No. 506 on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 528 Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted aye on the motion to invoke cloture.

Mr. President, I had the privilege to deliver the commencement address for Michigan State University fall graduates. Speaking with and recognizing the next generation of leaders in Michigan and the country was an incredible honor. While I was unable to attend today's vote No. 507 on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 528, Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted aye on confirmation.

Mr. President, I had the privilege to deliver the commencement address for Michigan State University fall graduates. Speaking with and recognizing the next generation of leaders in Michigan and our country was an incredible honor. While I was unable to attend today's vote No. 508 on motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 577 Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted aye on the motion to invoke cloture.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, had there been a rollcall vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 323, Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, I would have voted no.

Had there been a rollcall vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 519, Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, of New

York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra, I would have voted no.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 608, Adm. Christopher W. Grady, for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 154 and 601.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 239, Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs).

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 320, Rufus Gifford, of Massachusetts, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 323, Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 440, Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ireland.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 442, Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 446, Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 447, Denise Campbell Bauer, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirma-

tion of Executive Calendar No. 454, Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 519, Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 625, John R. Bass, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management), vice Brian J. Bulatao.

REMEMBERING COLIN POWELL

Mr. REED. Mr. President. I rise today to honor one of our Nation's most distinguished and honorable military and diplomatic leaders, Colin Powell.

Few American leaders have served their nation more, from combat overseas as a young officer to the heights of military command and diplomacy on the world stage. Colin Powell will and should hold a renowned place in our country's history.

Throughout his life, Colin Powell was the epitome of selfless service and courageous leadership. He gave everything he had to America—and then some. And he always did what many profess but few do: He took responsibility.

Colin Powell was a trailblazer for countless Americans. He paved much of the way on his own. Raised in the South Bronx as the son of Jamaican immigrants, he joined ROTC at the City College of New York and went on to serve with incredible bravery in Vietnam, sustaining wounds on two tours and saving the lives of many fellow soldiers. Colin Powell's remarkable skill as a military commander was clear to everyone around him, and he rose quickly through the ranks, eventually becoming National Security Advisor to President Ronald Reagan and, later, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for President George H.W. Bush.

The "Powell Doctrine," as his theory of warfare would become known, guided the United States to its most decisive military victory since World War II through Operation Desert Storm. Colin Powell insisted that war should be the last resort in any national conflict, but, when necessary, it should be focused, overwhelming for the enemy, and controlled with clear objectives. We would do well to remember that vision today.

Colin Powell reached the summit of his career when he was named Secretary of State for President George W. Bush. Once again, he served his country selflessly and demonstrated his innate decency and integrity.

A distinct honor of my life was the opportunity to work with and learn from Colin Powell in the years afterward. I made a point to call him when I was named chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. His advice was deeply appreciated. Indeed, both in and out of uniform, he advised generations of Presidents, diplomats, military leaders, and lawmakers with wisdom and candor. Colin did not shrink from the truth, and he will be remembered as one of our Nation's most thoughtful strategists.

Perhaps most importantly, to the countless Americans who looked up to him, Colin Powell leaves a legacy of courage and integrity. He was the first leader of color in many of the land's highest offices, including National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State. He was beloved by his troops, respected by his peers, and trusted more than any other American of his day.

Colin Powell was resolute and honorable throughout his life and career, and America is fortunate to have benefited from his leadership. I offer my sincere condolences to Alma and his wonderful family, whom I know he loved deeply and fiercely.

May we all strive for the wisdom, courage, and humility that Colin Powell imparted upon this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as this year draws to a close, I rise today to recognize my staff and their exemplary service to Pennsylvania in the face of immense challenges. Even under the best of circumstances, public service can be challenging work. For the past 2 years my staff have, like all Americans, grappled with the daunting uncertainty and isolation wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic and grief for the more than 800,000 lives lost.

Despite these difficulties, they have risen to the demands of the moment to support, advocate for, and empower the people of Pennsylvania. The end of the year is a time for reflection on all that we have overcome and an opportunity to express gratitude for those we hold dear. This December, I would like to express my gratitude for the men and women who have served in my office—some of whom have since moved on—and their indelible contributions to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during such an extraordinary time.

I am grateful for my administrative staff, who build and maintain the solid foundation on which an effective congressional office is built. These are the people who tirelessly ensure that everyone on our team has the support and resources needed to do their jobs effectively. While the work that they

do may not be noticeable to everyone, they are truly the connective tissue which allows the rest of the office to function.

Similarly, the office's executive staff are tasked with ensuring my time is used as efficiently as possible and that my day runs smoothly. From building schedules that balance constituent engagements, committee hearings, floor votes, and travel; to managing the flurry of briefing memos on any given day and drafting my constituent greetings, I could not be nearly as effective on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania without their hard work.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the work of the constituent services team, who walk with constituents in their darkest moments in pursuit of a brighter resolution. Day in and day out, these are the men and women who help Pennsylvania seniors navigate issues with Social Security checks, help veterans secure benefits owed to them and medals they have earned, among so many other things. During COVID, they have continued to assist with routine cases while also working tirelessly to connect Pennsylvanians with testing and other resources, apply for small business relief, navigate unemployment systems, and so much more.

The outreach staff, spread out over seven offices across the Commonwealth, serve as a vital resource in ensuring the needs of all 67 counties are met. These individuals are my liaisons to local communities across Pennsylvania, representing me in their regions every single day. Throughout the pandemic, they have been in constant contact with local elected officials, sharing information back and forth and bringing to bear Federal resources when they have been needed most. Their relationships across the Commonwealth, and their granular knowledge of communities large and small are extraordinary. I am grateful for innumerable phone calls and meetings that they lead and attend every year and the thousands of miles that they drive as they crisscross their regions to show up for the communities they represent.

The legislative staff fight daily for policies that will improve life for every American, but especially those who are too often overlooked and left behind. These men and women bring their expertise to bear to help inform my policy positions and floor votes. In answering constituent correspondence, they parse through complex matters of policy to help constituents better understand how critical legislation will impact Pennsylvania. I am deeply grateful for the benefit of their extraordinary minds and their dedication to improving the lives of working families with sound policy.

It is through the tireless work of the communications staff that Pennsylvanians understand how I am representing them in Washington. These men and women are a vital bridge be-

tween the work that I do in the Senate and the people of Pennsylvania, helping me connect the voices of the Commonwealth to the halls of Congress, and in turn bringing our legislative work back into communities across Pennsylvania.

Since 2017, I have had the privilege of serving as the lead Democrat on the Senate Special Committee on Aging. During the pandemic, this team has relentlessly demanded accountability from the programs and institutions that serve older adults and people with disabilities. As COVID devastated nursing homes, they pushed for increased transparency to protect residents and workers. They now lead the call for transformative investments in life-changing home and community-based services.

There is an inscription on the Finance Building in Harrisburg, PA, that has guided me during my time as a public official. It reads: "All public service is a trust, given in faith and accepted in honor." Each and every day, my staff demonstrate their commitment to that trust with tireless work and personal sacrifice. They are hardworking and talented individuals who form a distinguished collective of honorable public servants whom I respect and whom I am grateful to work alongside.

Today, I am proud to list them alphabetically by name to memorialize their service to our Commonwealth and our country during this pandemic:

Tad Abramowich
Natalie Adams
Sandra Aguilera Garcia
Jennifer Baker
Jordan Ball
Rob Bielunas
Kim Bierly
Hulan Bikales
Regina Brennan
Sydney Brooks
Jessica Butherus
Kathi Caber
Jenna Carmen
Alyssa Charney
McKenzie Cliatt
Christian Clesi
Bob Coomber
Connor Corpora
Rory Daly
Stephanie DeLuca
Teresa Dennis
Josh Dubensky
Thomas Eagen
Micah Escobedo
Erika Felix
Marlon Ferguson
Lara Flynn
Adam Fountaine
Michael Gamel-McCormick
Peter Gartrell
Kristen Gentile
Ben Gilsdorf
Jasmine Goodman
Veronica Goodman
Ian Graham
Rashage Green
Jack Groarke
Andrea Guscott
Kyle Hannon
Hans Hansen
Kristen Harfield
Doug Hartman
Corey Husak
Sean Hyland